

SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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1970

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Medical Officer of Health: ESTHER JACKSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector: J. E. T. BASTABLE

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SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Telephone: Sherborne 2401

COUNCIL OFFICES
GREENHILL
SHERBORNE, Dorset.

Telephone number of
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
Sturminster Newton 651

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
1970

Chairman: W. H. Batten, T.D., J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Lt.Col. J. D. Dalley

Mr. L. S. Boys
Mr. H. W. Buckland
Mr. H. C. Cheetham
Mr. J. J. Gray

Mrs. E. M. Lane, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Cmdr. B. S. Magee, R.N. (Retd.)
Mrs. P. C. Thornton-Wood
Mr. W. V. Warry

Mrs. N. J. White

STAFF - PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(part time)

Esther Jackson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Clerk

Mrs. V. Donovan (to 31st July 1970)
Mrs. Wharton (1st September to
9th October 1970)
Mrs. A. Smith (26th October 1970)

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J. E. T. Bastable, Certificate of
Royal Sanitary Institute & Sanitary
Inspector Joint Board as Public
Health Inspector, Certificate of
Royal Society of Health as Inspector
of Meat & Foods

The Public Health Inspector organises refuse disposal
and manages the sewage works; he also acts as Petroleum
Regulation Inspector and deals with drainage administration
under Building Regulations.

One technical assistant

Clerk/typist

Miss Willis

SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1970

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	41,481
Registrar General's Estimated Mid-Year Population	7,170
Number of dwellings	2,513
Rateable value (at 1st April 1970)	£161,419
Product of penny rate 1970/71	£629.83p

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>BIRTHS</u> registered		1970			1969	1968
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births	Total	57	49	106	92	110
	Legitimate	52	46	98	87	104
	Illigitimate	5	3	8	5	6
Still Births	Total	0	2	2	0	1
	Legitimate	0	2	2	0	1
<u>DEATHS</u> registered		1970			1969	1968
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total		39	31	70	69	63
Maternal deaths			nil		nil	nil
Deaths of infants under 1 year:						
	Total	1	0	1	3	nil
	Legitimate	1	0	1	3	nil
Under 4 weeks of age - total			nil		2	nil
Under 1 week of age - total			nil		2	nil

The succeeding table of figures shews the birth rates, etc. for the Sherborne Rural area and the rates for England and Wales for comparison.

	1970	1969	1970	1969
	<u>Sherborne RD</u>		<u>England & Wales</u>	
Live birth rate per 1,000 est.population	14.8	13.2	16.0	16.3
Area comparability factor	1.13	1.13	1.0	1.00
Local adjusted rate	16.7	14.9	16.0	16.3
Illegitimate live births as % of all live births	8	5	8	8
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	19		13	13
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	9	33	18	18
I.M.R. of legitimate infants	10	34	17	17
I.M.R. of illegitimate infants	-	-	26	25
Neonatal mortality rate (Deaths under 4 wks per 1,000 live born)	-	22	12	12
Early neonatal mortality rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live born)	-	22	11	10
Perinatal mortality rate (Still births and deaths under 1 wk per 1,000 total live & still births)	19	22	23	23
Deaths per 1,000 population	9.8	9.9	11.7	11.9
Area comparability factor	0.96	0.99	1.0	1.0
Local adjusted death rate	9.4	9.8	11.7	11.9

In calculating Birth and Death Rates area comparability factors are issued by the Registrar General to "correct" marked variations from average in the age and sex structure of the local population and to take into account any unusually high or low mortality due to the presence of residential institutions etc. The local crude rate multiplied by the area comparability factor produces a rate comparable with rates in other parts of the country.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR

	<u>1970</u>			<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>
Tuberculosis - all forms	0	1	1	1	0
Other infective illnesses	0	0	0	1	
Malignant Neoplasm					
Lung and bronchus	4	0	4	2	2
Breast	0	2	2	1)	
Uterus	-	0	0	1)	
Prostate	2	-	2	1)	9
Stomach and intestines	4	3	7	3)	
Leukaemia	1	1	2	2)	
Other sites	2	1	3	5)	
Anaemia	0	0	0	0	
Other endocrine etc. diseases				0	
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	1	0	1	0	
Ischaemic heart disease	8	5	13	16	21
Cerebrovascular disease	3	4	7	6)	
Other heart & circulatory system diseases	5	6	11	9)	15
Influenza	1	0	1	0	0
Pneumonia	2	4	6	6	0
Bronchitis and emphysema	0	2	2	3	
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0	1	1	
Ulcer and diseases of digestive system	0	2	2	3	
Other diseases of liver and intestines	0	0	0	0	
Diseases of kidneys and genito-urinary system	1	0	1	1	
Congenital anomalies & other causes of perinatal mortality					2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases					3
Motor vehicle accidents	1	0	1	1	0
All other accidents	2	0	2	1	
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	0	1	0	2
	39	31	70	69	49

Figures for previous years are included for comparison. It is apparent that the list of numbers dying in the population of this area has little meaning unless compared with figures for the whole country: any seeming difference in trends and figures are artifacts due to the relatively small numbers of deaths in the area.

CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

A. Diseases against which immunisation is offered

TUBERCULOSIS

B.C.G. vaccination is offered to those children during their second or third year at secondary school, who, on testing, are found to lack immunity. B.C.G. vaccination is also offered by the hospital service to the younger children who are known to have been in contact with tuberculosis.

No case of tuberculosis was notified during the year.

DIPHTHERIA

Again no notification was received and it is many years since a case was notified in the district. Immunisation of your children and subsequent booster doses is undoubtedly responsible for this satisfactory freedom from infection.

POLIOMYELITIS

No case has been notified for many years in this district. Again vaccination with oral poliomyelitis vaccine is responsible for the local freedom from this disease. Primary vaccination is given during the second half of the first year of life with a booster dose before school entry and another booster at 12 years old.

WHOOPING COUGH

No case of this disease was notified during the year.

TETANUS

This disease is a severe and dangerous illness and active immunisation is offered to babies with a booster just before school entry and a further booster at 12 years old.

MEASLES

Vaccination against measles sometimes produces a reaction comparable to a very mild and very brief attack of measles. In 1968 one of the two strains of vaccine in use was withdrawn and for a time there was a shortage of vaccine so that the level of vaccination has fallen below that which would eradicate this unpleasant disease.

23 cases of measles were notified, the majority during the second half of the year.

GERMAN MEASLES

In July the Department of Health recommended that vaccination against rubella (german measles) should be offered to all girls between their 11th and 14th birthdays but that initially priority should be given to older girls, i.e. those in their 14th year. Vaccine became available just before the end of 1970.

VACCINATION STATISTICS 1970

(The term vaccination is now used internationally for procedures which in this country we used to describe as vaccination and immunisation).

POLIOMYELITIS

DISTRICT	ORAL		DIPHTHERIA		TETANUS		WHOOPING COUGH		SMALLPOX		MEASLES	RUBELLA
	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R		
Sherborne R.D.C.	76	151	72	82	78	111	66	32	64	9	99	54

P = Primary course
R = Reinforcing dose

These figures are supplied by the County Medical Officer and refer to vaccinations of children.

It is not possible to compare these figures directly with those for previous years because in 1968 new schedules for the timing of injections etc. were introduced.

Vaccinations are now started at 6 months of age and it is no longer necessary to give a booster dose of anti-diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus at 18-20 months.

B. Infections against which routine vaccination is not offered.

INFECTIVE JAUNDICE

1 case was notified during the year.

FOOD POISONING AND DYSENTERY.

No case of food poisoning or of dysentery was notified during the year.

INFESTATIONS

Head Lice

Lice and nits have once again ceased to be a rarity among schoolchildren. This is probably a reflection of the fashion for longer, loose hair among women and men. Most of the infestations reported to the Health Authority were among school children; older patients usually go direct to their general medical practitioner for treatment.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

The Public Health Laboratory Service has continued to give excellent service. The Dorchester Laboratory, under the direction of Dr. G. H. Tee has dealt with nearly all the work from this area.

Brucellosis in humans is not a notifiable disease but public interest in the scheme for eradication of brucellosis from dairy cattle has increased awareness of the possibility of brucellosis infection in humans. Dr. Tee reports that the Public Health Laboratory examined an increased number of specimens from humans. However, the percentage of sera found positive has remained remarkably constant at about 6% over the past three years.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT 1951

I am happy to be able to report that it has not been necessary to take any formal action under this Act by which the Magistrates can order the removal of an elderly person living in unsatisfactory circumstances and unable to care for himself but unwilling to be admitted to hospital when a bed is available.

COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

The Home Help Service administered by the County Health Department has continued to support the elderly and has given equally valuable support to other families when illness has prevented the homemaker from carrying out her normal work.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Acknowledgement must again be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district. Among examples of this work is the meals-on-wheels service provided in some parishes by the W.R.V.S. This year 18 old people benefitted from this service compared with 19 during the previous year. Not only are the meals appreciated by the old people but also the twice weekly visits by helpers who deliver the meals.

The B.R.C.S. arranges transport for elderly people to be taken to the chiropody clinic organised by the B.R.C.S. at the County Clinic building in Sherborne each Friday.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

NATURE OF THE DISTRICT AND PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES AND TRADES

The nature of the district is rural in character, its main industry being agriculture. A large number of outworkers carry on glove making in their homes for factories situated outside the district. A large dairy, with a wide supply area, is situated within the district.

The district is becoming increasingly a dormitory area for persons working in Sherborne and Yeovil.

WATER SUPPLY

Public Supplies

Relevant Authority:- The Wessex Water Board.

No. of samples taken during the year by:-

- | | |
|------------------------------|----|
| (a) This department | 4 |
| (b) Wessex Water Board | 25 |

Private Supplies

Apart from individual well supplies there are the following communal supplies:-

Home of St. Francis, Batcombe
Harris Farm, Batcombe
Dyers Farm, Batcombe
Melbury Bubb
Woolcombe
Strangways Estate, Stockwood
Wyke, Castleton
Tollbridge Farm, Bradford Abbas
Manor Farm, Bradford Abbas
Blackmarsh Farm, Castleton
Pinford Farm, Castleton
Blifton Maybank House
Hilfield
Buckshaw House, Holwell
Leweston & Lillington
Compton House, Over Compton
Stallen Farm, Nether Compton
Gonville & Caius College, Poyntington
Hillside Farm, Poyntington
Staffords Green, Sandford Orcas
Holway, Sandford Orcas
Coombe Farm, Castleton

There are still some 211 properties on private supplies in the district. A proposal to connect three houses at Poyntington to the mains supply was approved during the year, the work should be completed early in 1971. Comprehensive sampling of an estate supply at Stockwood was undertaken and also one at Coombe, Castleton. Both supplies showed contamination at the collecting points, this contamination arising from wildlife excreta, there being no septic tanks or other means of prolonged human contamination nearby. The owners of these supplies have been asked to take measures to bring them up to a satisfactory standard.

WATER SUPPLY (continued)

<u>Parish</u>	<u>SAMPLES</u>	
	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Batcombe	1	1
Bradford Abbas	10	-
Castleton	4	2
Clifton Maybank	2	-
Hilfield	1	-
Nether Compton	-	2
Poyntington	11	6
Sandford Orcas	34	12
Stockwood	10	12

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE

All parishes not on main drainage systems have established nuisances arising from the disposal of foul sullage drainage.

Longburton sewerage scheme was finished during the year and property connections totalling 80 have been completed. The scheme for Over & Nether Compton made good progress and should be in use in 1971.

A proposal to sewer Leigh, Chetnole and Beerhackett was approved by the Council and is now being prepared by the Council's Consultants for submission to the Ministry.

Consultants have been retained to deal with the sewerage scheme for Osborne & Poyntington with a proposal to drain to the Sherborne Urban District Council's works.

Yetminster. Sewage from this village is continuing to increase consequent to new housing development.

Leigh & Chetnole. A detailed sewerage proposal is being prepared by the Council's Consultants for submission to the Ministry.

Ryme Intrinsica. The Council decided that the disposal works at Thornford should be enlarged sufficiently to take sewage from Leigh, Chetnole, Beerhackett and Ryme Intrinsica.

Beerhackett. A proposal to sewer part of this parish is to be submitted to the Ministry for approval, the work to proceed at the same time as that proposed for Leigh and Chetnole.

Alweston. In order to prevent nuisance arising from a contaminated watercourse a new scheme of farm drainage was put in during the year.

Trent. The enlargement of the disposal works was completed to take sewage from Over & Nether Compton.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE (continued)

Bradford Abbas. Some nuisance was caused to an adjoining property owner due to the malfunctioning of a solids diverter type pump at Mill Lane pumping station. This has now been rectified. Apart from individual houses no development has taken place during the year, permission has however been given for the residential development of a small area of land adjoining Churchwell Street. Satisfactory effluent samples continue to be obtained from the sewage works even though the works are now theoretically overloaded. These satisfactory results are achieved only by carrying out more frequent desludging and generally extra maintenance at the works.

Cesspool Emptying Service. The service has worked very well during the year, some 266 properties benefitting. The Contractors' main problem has been and will continue to be the disposal of the cesspool contents. There has been a complaint from a member of the public that the practice of putting these contents on to the farm land and especially where there may be a public right of way, should not be permitted. One can sympathise with this view but to receive and treat such septic material at a sewage works is not possible within the limits of the works design and the cost of provision would no doubt be unrealistic compared to the limited nuisance created by land disposal. The answer, most probably, will be found by the Contractors themselves as each year it appears to be more difficult to persuade farmers to accept this material.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Collection and Disposal of House Refuse.

The controlled tip at Osborne has functioned satisfactorily although complaints of flies in the locality were made in the summer months. Spraying of the tip to prevent infestation was done daily and control of breeding was established. The fly causing most trouble was the lesser house fly which is very prevalent in this farming locality.

The Sherborne Urban District Council who had planning permission to use land in this Authority's area for controlled tipping, commenced using it during the year.

Salvage.

Salvage to the value of £55.12.5 was sold during the year.

Roadside Sanitation.

Litter bins on laybys are emptied by this Authority.

RIVERS & STREAMS POLLUTION.

The procedure of notifying the appropriate River Authorities of all plans received showing new farm schemes likely to pollute ditches, streams and rivers, has been maintained. Complaints of pollution of ditches and streams have been dealt with as they arise.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

No. of inspectors appointed under the Act	1 (part time)
Estimated No. of Premises subject to registration	11
No. of Premises registered	11
No. of Premises Inspected	9
No. of inspections carried out	18

FACTORIES ACT 1961

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	2		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	10		
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	12		
Total	39	24		

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To HM Inspector (4)	By HM Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Total	2	2			

THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Complaints have been received during the year from one householder who alleges that he is getting fumes from neighbouring domestic central heating boilers. His dwelling forms one of a group of bungalows in a Close where given the right atmospheric conditions coupled with low flue emission height fumes from oil or solid fuel heating systems are quickly noticeable.

AMINAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT

No. of premises registered under the Act	1
No. of inspections carried out	3

SWIMMING BATHS

No. of swimming baths to which the public have access	3
Inspection and action taken in respect of them:	

There are three open air swimming baths in the district, one being restricted to school pupils, and the other two being used by adults if invited. All receive chlorination. The County Council's Chief Public Health Inspector maintains a careful watch on the County Education Authority's school swimming pools.

CONTROL OF MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

No. of licensed sites	10
Nature of Sites. Individual residential caravans.	
No. of inspections carried out	10

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are no public conveniences in the district.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee of which the Sherborne Rural District Council is one of six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. The work is organised by the Chief Public Health Inspector of Sherborne Urban District.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

There is no premise in the District licensed under this Act.

SANITATION OF SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEEN HYGIENE)

Those schools inspected were found to be of a satisfactory standard. The County Council Chief Public Health Inspector also inspects school canteens.

HOUSING.

Total number of houses in the district	2,513
<u>Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:</u>	
Total No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	42
No. of inspections made	126
No. of informal notices served	10
No. of informal notices complied with	8
No. of Statutory Notices served	1
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	1

HOUSING (continued)

No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958	2
Action taken by the local authority in respect of such houses:-	
Closing Orders in lieu of Demolition Orders	1
Demolition Orders made	1
Undertakings accepted for:	
(a) Closure	Nil
(b) Reconditioning	Nil
(c) Other action	Nil
No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year	Nil

Overcrowding

No case of statutory overcrowding was found

Houses Let in Lodgings

There is no house known to be let in lodgings

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

No application was received for a certificate of disrepair.

Improvement Grants

Applications received during the year:	36
	(a) <u>Standard</u> (b) <u>Discretionary</u>
No. granted	15 21
No. pending	nil nil

New Houses

No. of new dwellings provided by private enterprise during the year	57
No. of new dwellings provided by the Local Authority during the year	38

Re-housing

Total No. of families housed during the year by the Local Authority	53
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Housing Applications

No. of persons who are applicants for a Council House at the end of the year:-	
(a) resident within the district	69
(b) resident without the district	22

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk

The Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration	1
No. of 'distributors' subject to registration	6
Bottle rinses to determine the bacterial cleanliness of milk bottles immediately prior to being filled with milk were taken. All were satisfactory.	

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES (continued)

Milk (continued)

Samples

The County Chief Public Health Inspector reports that 249 samples were taken during the year and of these 240 were satisfactory.

2. Other Food Premises

(a) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Details of food premises subject to the above, grouped in categories of trade carried on in them and including the following information for each category separately:-

Trade	No. of Premises	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16.	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Hotels	1	1	1	1
Cafes	1	1	1	1
Public Houses	16	16	16	16
Clubs	4	4	4	4
Church Halls	14	14	14	14
Canteens - Schools	10	10	10	10
Confectioners	6	6	6	6
Meat and Fish	1	1	1	1
Grocers	2	2	2	2
Mixed Stores	20	20	20	20
Boarding Schools	2	2	2	2
Food Factories	3	3	3	3
Others	2	2	2	2

No. of such premises inspected during the year 61

No. of inspections carried out 180

(b) No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of:-

(i) Ice Cream	29
(ii) Sausages & Prepared Meats	1
(iii) Fish and chips	Nil

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test by Public Health Inspector Nil

(c) The method in use for disposal of condemned food:

Burial at refuse tip.

(d) There was no application for a certificate of exemption under the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-56.

Byelaws are operative in the district in respect of handling and wrapping food, etc.

Slaughterhouses

No. of licensed slaughterhouses in the district	1
No. of licensed knackers yards in the district	Nil

Meat Inspection

At slaughterhouses all carcasses were inspected.

Meat Inspection (continued)

CARCASES & OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	65			148	173
Number inspected	65			148	173
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned				1	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11			23	36
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	17%			16%	20.8%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned					4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis					2.3%

POULTRY INSPECTION

- (a) No. of poultry processing premises within the district ... one
(b) No. of visits to these premises one
(c) Total No. of birds processed during the year, approx. 1,300

The birds processed are mainly broilers.

The poultry are slaughtered humanely by dislocation of the neck.

Dressing of the carcasses takes place outside this Authority's area.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS (INCLUDING HOUSING) CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	1,177
Total No. of informal notices served	29
Total No. of informal notices complied with	25
Total No. of statutory notices served	3
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	1
No. of prosecutions	Nil

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES
(HEALTH AND WELFARE)
30 SEP 1971
REF1